



**Celebrating Municipal Excellence**

# 2022 Nomination Form

**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 25, 2022

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Assiniboia
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Clint Mauthe
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	Town of Assiniboia CAO
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-642-5001
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 670 Assiniboia, SK S0H 0B0
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	finance@assiniboia.net
<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	Southland Co-op Centre
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	June 2021
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	September 2022
	Ongoing: <input type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Kerri Martin
<b>Organization:</b>	Town of Assiniboia
<b>Position:</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Box 670 Assiniboia, SK S0H 0B0
<b>Telephone #:</b>	306-642-5001
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	finance@assiniboia.net

***Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.***

## **The Practice**

### **1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?**

The inspiration for building a multipurpose recreation complex and event centre for Assiniboia & area was derived from the need for a facility that citizens of all ages and abilities could enjoy. The past facility, the Assiniboia Civic Centre, was a gathering place for the community but due to various states of disrepair was unable to meet the needs of the community as a whole. The Assiniboia Civic Centre was over 60 years old and had accessibility issues as well as energy efficiency issues due to poor insulation and inefficient electrical systems. The building had reached the end of its useful life. It was time to look at planning for a new facility. Assiniboia is proud to be home to the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association, an organization of volunteers who fund raise for sport, recreation and cultural capital projects with the town of Assiniboia. Through their leadership, these volunteers shared their vision of building a new recreation facility that would be inclusive to all members of the town and surrounding area.

### **2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?**

The new Southland Co-op Centre has and will improve access to community, cultural and recreational activities in Assiniboia and the surrounding area in many ways.

First, the replacement of the aging and deteriorating Civic Centre with a modern, multi-purpose arena has empowered our community with a fully accessible centre for everyone regardless of age and ability through improved ground level entry and wheelchair and elevator access. The facility is home to a walking track, a Lakota First Nation cultural exhibit, a teen centre, an NHL sized ice surface and a multi-purpose gym and meeting room which has created a new community hub.

Secondly, the new facility will support the importance of health and wellness in the lives of our residents, an essential function that the existing Civic Centre could not achieve given its constraints. The new facility will encourage and allow all members of our community - from children, teens and adults to seniors, veterans and the physically and mentally challenged - to focus on and improve their health and well-being.

Third, the centre will empower and enhance our community by providing a cultural hub that will support the arts through concerts and cultural learning through the Lakota First Nation exhibit as well as the ability to house many other cultural exhibitions and events within the facility.

## The Process

***This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.***

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

*Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association*

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

The role of the municipal council was through a financial contribution of \$1,210,000. Council also provided the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association any resources and assistance they required during the planning, design and building of the facility. Municipal staff contributed in various ways: Administration staff administering the project bank account, attending meetings, Public Works & Utilities staff were involved in helping with the site prep, event set up, clean up, the Fire Department helped with event activities and cleaning, recreation admin staff provided guidance on programming activities. Also supporting initiatives for the teen centre, contracting the concession and caretakers. Also senior management and members of Town Council are part of the leadership team - who participated on the building committee as part of the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association.

5. Were other groups were involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

The main group that was involved with developing the project was the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association. This organization has been an integral part of providing capital for sport, recreation and cultural facilities in Assiniboia for the past 40 years. This organization was the leader in the fundraising efforts raising funds through their Spring Fever Lotto and Sport Celebrity supper and auction. They also spearheaded the collection of all corporate and individual donations made to the facility.

The Town of Assiniboia was a financial contributor and supporter of the project from the beginning as well as numerous municipalities from the area:

Rural Municipality of Excel No. 71  
Rural Municipality of Lake of the Rivers No. 72  
Rural Municipality of Willow Bunch No. 42  
Rural Municipality of Stonehenge No. 73

## Rural Municipality of Terrell No. 101

Numerous community organizations and individuals volunteered by helping with the Spring Fever Lotto and the Sports Celebrity supper and auction over the 12 year. Minor hockey played a key role in fundraising with there efforts to assist with the Spring Fever Lotto.

## 6. What resources were involved?

### Financial Resources

Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association \$4,935,257

Town of Assiniboia \$1,210,000

Federal Government (ICIP Grant) \$6,293,010

Provincial Government (ICIP Grant) \$5,191,733

Rural Municipality of Excel No. 71 \$62,500

Rural Municipality of Lake of the Rivers No. 72 \$150,000

Rural Municipality of Willow Bunch No. 42 \$75,000

Rural Municipality of Stonehenge No. 73 \$75,000

Rural Municipality of Terrell No. 101 \$7,500

### Human Resources

Thousands of man hours put in from volunteers throughout the community including but not limited to the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association, Assiniboia Minor Hockey, and the Sportsman Dinner and Auction committee.

## 7. How was the project or practice developed?

The project was developed though the leadership of the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Association (ACIA). This group toured Saskatchewan and researched numerous arena's. They took the best parts of each facility and started working on a design concept. The team wanted more than just an ice surface but to incorporate a design that included activities for all ages and abilities - a real multi purpose facility. The ACIA had previously purchased the lands years before - therefore that determined the the size of the building.

ACIA board members worked hard on a concept design which eventually was decided on. The next step was to come up with a financial plan and budget for this facility. This is when the ACIA began the hard work on fundraising and searching for grants and sponsors. Numerous partnerships were formed and the dream became a reality when the ACIA and the Town of Assiniboia secured the ICIP grant.

Southland Co-op Centre Facility overview:

Total Price \$18,000,000

**Main Floor:**

NHL size ice surface

6 dressing rooms

1 large referee room

1 universal dressing room

1 Coaches lounge

Teen centre - with gaming consoles & games, seating with tables

Rock climbing wall

Multipurpose room with pickleball court

a Mini stick rink

Lakota First Nations interpretive centre

**Second Floor**

Sport Simulator Room

190 meter walking track - free 12 months of the year

full commercial kitchen - concession / lounge

Children's play centre

state of the art sound system and led entertainment lighting lighting

Digital Video scoreclock

Loge seating box

367 comfortable padded seats

360 viewing with drink rail and bar stools

**Outdoor**

outdoor plaza with concrete table tennis, artificial grass area with a 24 foot digital screen and sound system that is used as a tailgate area for many sporting events.

2nd story deck

The new recreation complex supports our commitments to build a healthy, active, green community.

## The Results

### 8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

The Southland Co-op Centre has brought the community and area together. It has brought together people of all ages, genders, races and abilities. It is providing several options for community members to be active and healthy. It has fast become the hub of our community. The community is enjoying hockey games, figure skating, the sport simulator room, the pickleball court, the climbing wall, the walking track and kids are loving the Teen Centre. We have several organizations that are using the facility daily including a Junior B hockey team, a senior hockey team, many adult recreational hockey teams, minor hockey teams & a figure skating club.

There is a variety of recreational programs within the facility including a walk to the

North Pole which was created for patrons who use the walking track, they log their laps daily in an effort to amass enough kms to reach the north pole.

Other events held in the facility include birthday parties, family gatherings, outdoor tailgate parties where the community comes together to watch sporting events such as Saskatchewan Roughrider games, hosting major concerts, sledge hockey tournaments, hockey tournaments & schools, as well as figure skating competitions.

Positioning ourselves as the premier event center for crowds of up to 1500 people We are currently planning events for next season including a WHL exhibition hockey game as well as a national curling event. The future looks bright as we work to attract conventions, agricultural events as well as national and provincial sporting and cultural events.

The Grand Opening helped show case the facility with activities all day long culminating in a sold out concert featuring Saskatchewan artists Jess Moskaluke, Tyler Lewis and Lisa Moen.

This facility has provided a new energy in our community that has put us on the map for hosting provincial and national events that will showcase what our community has to offer. This facility is world class and we are excited to share it with all who come to visit. The economic spin off from this facility and the events it will host will increase revenue for restaurants, hotels, and all the retail businesses within the community. Currently we have booked 10 hockey tournaments that will bring over 1500 additional people into the community.

The facility will also help business attract and retain top quality employees to the community as well as attracting people who are looking to relocate for retirement.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

A formal facility evaluation was done by the Project Manager once the project was completed. The contractors worked together with the ACIA, architects, and Colliers Project management to ensure a schedule was put together to fix any building deficiencies. Wright construction also had progress reports completed regularly as the project moved along. Also Colliers managed the project to ensure it was kept on time and budget. Colliers managed the ICIP grant funds with ACIA and the Town of Assiniboia.

The Town and the ACIA met after the completion of the project to discuss any potential to improve the facility design, construction and operation of the project. This process served well to identify any potential improvements that could be gained for future projects.

## 10. Describe any challenges faced.

One major challenge faced during this project was keeping everyone upbeat and focused on a project that required 12 years of fundraising.

The second challenge was the arduous task of fundraising for such a massive project required a lot of commitment from volunteers in order to raise the approximate \$18 million dollars to complete the project.

The final challenge was to build a facility during the COVID pandemic. There was no guide to building a facility during a pandemic and many issues related to manpower and supplies had to be solved on the fly.

Although these challenges were not trivial they were all able to be overcome. Due to the hard work of the project managers from Colliers Project Management, the Assiniboia Civic Improvement Board and the general contractor Wright Construction Western, this project was delivered on time and on budget.

## Lessons Learned

### 11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

We learned patience is a virtue when planning such a massive undertaking. We also learned that the long time period that the project took to reach completion allowed for an improved facility, as it allowed for the many changes and iterations of the initial plans that ultimately provided a world class facility.

We learned how a small rural population can move mountains when they all work together for a common goal. Keeping the community informed and engaged in the project from start to finish was key to its success.

We learned the importance of dreaming big in order to achieve world class results. The design team never once looked at the cost as an obstacle when designing the facility. The plan was to build a world class facility and not to sacrifice the end product. When choices had to be made on budgetary items the choice was always build it to the best of our ability and work harder to raise the needed funds to achieve our dream.

The only recommendation on things we would do different is to ensure from day one we built to our dream and not to our budget. You can always work to increase your budget but you should never sacrifice your dreams to meet your budget.

**All nominations will be listed on the Saskatchewan Municipal Awards website as a resource for other municipalities. Be sure to include specific information.**

Please submit your completed nomination package to:

**E-mail:** [awards@municipalawards.ca](mailto:awards@municipalawards.ca) (preferred)



**Fax:** Attn: Saskatchewan Municipal Awards Program

**Mail:** Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, Unit 305 – 4741 Parliament Avenue, Regina, SK  
S4W 0T9

**Questions?**

**Contact Stephanie Bourassa at 306-525-4318.**

***Thank you for submitting a nomination for the  
16<sup>th</sup> annual Saskatchewan Municipal Awards.***